

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 10672 190949Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /053 W

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O R 190919Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8276

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 10672

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: ROK OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES KIM TAE-JUNG TRANSFERRED
TO HOSPITAL IN SEOUL

REF: SEOUL 10652 (DTG 190625Z DEC 77)

1. AT 1500 LOCAL TIME, DECEMBER 19, KOREAN VERNACULAR RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT MYONGDONG CONVICT KIM TAE-JUNG HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO "A HOSPITAL IN SEOUL" FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. ANNOUNCEMENT HAD IT THAT THIS DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY WARDEN OF CHINJU PRISON, IN ACCORD WITH ARTICLE 29 OF PRISON ADMINISTRATION LAW, WHICH ALLOWS FOR INCARCERATION IN A HOSPITAL IF MEDICAL FACILITIES IN PRISON ARE INSUFFICIENT. KIM FAMILY INFORMED EMBOFF THAT KIM IS IN ROOM 201 OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL. (COMMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED THAT KIM'S LEGAL STATUS IS THE SAME AS BEFORE: HE IS INCARCERATED AND A GUARD MUST BE IN HIS ROOM AT ALL TIMES. HE IS NOT OUT ON "SICK BAIL".) 1600 TONG-A RADIO NEWS CITED JUSTICE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AS SOURCE OF ANNOUNCEMENT AND SAID KIM WAS NOW IN SNU HOSPITAL. NDP SPOKESMAN
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RELEASED A STATEMENT WELCOMING THIS STEP, AND ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ROKG WOULD SPEEDILY RESPOND TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION OF LAST SUMMER THAT GOVERNMENT SHOW MORE LENIENCY TOWARD EM-9 VIOLATORS. TONGA ILBO DELAYED ITS SEOUL CITY EDITION UNTIL 1500 APPARENTLY FOR THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. KIM KWAN-SOK, SECRETARY GENERAL OF KNCC, COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT FOREIGN REPORTERS HAD ASKED HIM FOR HIS REACTION TO KIM'S TRANSFER EARLIER TODAY, BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE. KIM EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AT SPEED WITH WHICH REPORTERS WORKED AND, UNAWARE OF DISTINCTION NOTED ABOVE, ASSUMED KIM WAS STILL UNDER "HALF HOUSE ARREST" (WHICH DESCRIBES A PRISONER'S STATUS WHEN ON "SICK BAIL".) KIM WENT ON TO SAY HE WAS CONFIDENT ROKG HAD CALCULATED ALL RISKS INVOLVES IN "RELEASING" KIM, BEFORE TAKING THIS STEP. KIM HAD NO WORD OF ANY ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN STATUS OF ANY OF OTHER IMPRISONED PERSONS.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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